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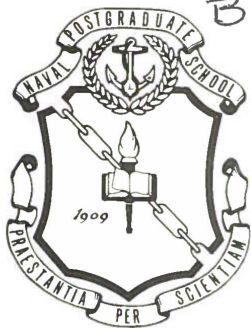
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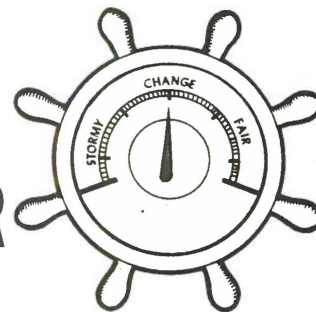
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The BAROMETER



VOL. VI, NO. 8

WEEK OF 30 AUGUST 1971

EDITOR:

LCDR THOMAS J. LOFTUS, SMC # 2034

The BAROMETER is a student newspaper for the exchange of ideas and information concerning the development and improvement of the professional environment at NPS and within the U. S. Navy.

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* OFFICERS, FACULTY, STAFF and WIVES *
* are invited to contribute articles *
* of interest to the BAROMETER, c/o *
* the Editors. *
*

"In a village in India, there was an old man who seemed to know the answer to every question. A group of young men set out to confuse him. One of the youths was to hide a bird behind his back, and ask the old man whether the bird was alive or dead. If he said he was alive, the youth would kill it; if he said it was dead, the youth would let it fly. So they came to the old man and asked: "What does he have in his hands?" "A bird," the old man answered. "Is it alive or dead?" And the old man answered: "It is in your hands; it is in your hands."

(Indian Folk Tale quoted by Ernest Dale)

With a simple change of names in the letterhead, the BAROMETER announces that CDR Erich Cramer is laying down the editorship preparatory to his graduation in September. As he departs, he leaves behind him a student newspaper which has changed a great deal under his guidance. From a credit-sponsored, management-oriented directed study the BUSINESS BAROMETER has become the BAROMETER, an independent, volunteer paper which concerns itself with the entire spectrum of the professional environment at NPS. The BAROMETER now continues with the understanding that the development and improvement of professional spirit within the various officer corps is "in our hands," in the hands of the officers themselves.

BAROMETER QUESTIONNAIRE REVISITED

The "NPS BAROMETER Questionnaire 1-71" was intended to sample student opinion in regard to student participation in school decision making. In the process it generated some comments which can be related to the value of the BAROMETER itself, a few of which are quoted anonymously.

"I am tired of hearing about how bad the school is from those who seem incapable of handling the work level. Quit crying and start studying. Editors take note."

"The BAROMETER has degenerated into a juvenile paper."

"I am here to learn. I'll leave the admin to the Administrators."

"...student participation in decision making requires that the student body, at large, is genuinely interested in and concerned about the affairs of the school. It is my opinion that, like the average American with regards to his government, our student body is uninterested so that, again like our government, we have perhaps ten percent of our student population wanting and willing to make decisions for the silent and unwilling majority."

"With the diversity of backgrounds and interests represented by the student population it seems there should be little difficulty in obtaining volunteer participation in decision-making processes which is generally lacking at this time."

(Faculty) "If the BAROMETER is to be useful to us, how about coming up with some specific ways of correcting some specific problems in limited specific areas? There are plenty of us on the Staff and Faculty who will listen to students with new ideas and suggestions. (Many seemingly new proposals have been tried out in the past, i.e. we have come full circle in many areas.) I think all of us know the problems; what we need are some answers - not a rehash or reminder of the problems!"

Faced with these comments, at the time of change of editors, it is worthwhile to restate the basic contention of the BAROMETER that it exists to provide a forum for student, faculty and staff communication which can help solve problems where solutions are possible, or at least promote understanding where they are not. With this statement in mind, it will be apparent that the paper will be as juvenile as its active participators; it will attempt to call upon the broad base of experience and talent which does exist in this student body rather than limit itself to the thoughts of any one curriculum or any group of individual students. The majority of the people commenting are doing their studying and retaining an interest in other areas as well. We can well leave the administrating to the administrators and still ask for increased participation in this administrative process which is called education.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Professor J. W. Schultz, Chairman, Faculty Scholarship Committee

Subj: Excellence in Teaching Award and letter from LCDR Paul Rasmussen
dtd 16 August

1. As a member of the 1970/71 Excellence in Teaching Award Committee I would like to respond to the Barometer's request for the names of the runners-up to this award. The answer is that there simply are none. The statistical procedures used are such that there is no ordering of the candidates in the usual sense. Furthermore, nearly all of the analysis of the data is carried out by means of a computer program and the candidates for the award are identified by codes only. In addition, to avoid any possible kind of bias in successive years, the past two committees have elected that only the name of THE selectee be made known to the committee. Those who are interested in the procedures used are referred to a thesis (in the Library) titled "The First Annual Award for Excellence in Teaching. A Study of Procedure and Analysis of Data", by (then) 2nd LT Robert William Geary, USMC.

2. I can comment only in general terms in reference to LCDR Paul Rasmussen's plight of being awarded the BS degree even though he has twice the required hours for the MS degree. In order to be admitted to a MS degree program a student must have a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent. This means that credits used to satisfy the baccalaureate requirement cannot be used again to satisfy the MS degree requirements. Most schools have similar requirements so that the quality of awarded degrees is maintained at an acceptable level and to avoid the "degree mill" stigma. Extenuating circumstances are always possible and I suggest that anyone having questions similar to Mr. Rasmussen's seek the counsel and guidance of their Academic Associate and Curricular Officer. They won't bite!

EDITORIAL NOTE: Henceforth, the BAROMETER will print letters which require an answer from the Faculty or Staff only after the Editors have received an answer to the question either through the Action Line procedure or through direct liaison with the action officer concerned.

ANOTHER LETTER

This letter was received as significant controversy was raging as to the conduct of correctional institutions in California and elsewhere and in the wake of the killing of several more prison guards. The letter is printed not to draw the student body into the discussion, but to point out what can be done to try to help solve a part of one of the many problems which do exist in this area.

"WHY DON'T THEY TEAR DOWN OUR PRISONS?"

LT Richard F. Hefferman, USN

This was the controversial question raised by Ronald Goldfarb in his July 27, 1971 article in Look Magazine. Major points of Mr. Goldfarb's argument are:

- a. The prison system is a \$1 billion a year waste - the majority of prisoners released do not stay out of trouble.
- b. At a recent American Correctional Association meeting of Administrators, Mr. Goldfarb asked the wardens, "What percent of people under his supervision needed to be there to protect society from personal injury?" ... about 10 - 15% was the consensus.
- c. Over 80 percent of crime relates to property and punishing the offender does little to protect the victim.
- d. A victim - compensation program should be instituted. A criminal without money would work on a public works project outside prison. This procedure has been inaugurated recently in Great Britain, Sweden, and 6 states.
- e. "The rich can tailor-make private solutions for the individual offender:
 restitution
 psychiatric care
 special schooling
 training
 the poor are thrown into prisons."

Mr. Goldfarb stated that for those criminals requiring confinement:

- a. Supervisory committees, local and national, visit all institutions and screen complaints, as in the Netherlands and other Scandinavian countries - to prevent riot causing abuse.
- b. No official holds office more than 5 years to prevent them from getting stale and set in their ways.

For those citizens interested in getting involved and/or learning more about our prisons, tours are available of Soledad Correctional Facility.

I attended a tour recently, sponsored by the University of Man at MPC, and had an opportunity to rap with prisoners. I expected dialog to center around the fact that they were all "framed" -- not so. I was asked, instead, if I could get some football equipment for them. It seems that Soledad has a really good team, has a program in the works to play local football teams, yet hasn't got the equipment. The officers of the correctional facility realize that organized athletics is an excellent rehabilitation program -- that inmates need to know that they are not forgotten men. But funds were not appropriated for this program.

Now here's the pitch. I don't advocate tearing down the wire fences of Soledad -- but I firmly believe that it would be beneficial for the inmates to interact with "free men" under controlled conditions. Give them a chance. If any of the readers of the BAROMETER would like to donate football gear, or know someone who would donate gear, please drop a note in SMC 2116.

A LAST NOTE

As this issue was going to press, the first meeting of the newly-formed "Nucleus Group for the Student Council" was scheduled for 24 August. The purpose of this meeting was "to discuss the problems of having a 'Representative' Student Council" and "to establish a working organization from the Nucleus Group to get on with the work which will be required." There has been a lot of discussion about this Council, but they deserve all the cooperation we can give them so they can achieve their avowed purpose.